

I came to the Tabiona area in 1911 along with my father. We stayed at the home of Arthur Maxwell. While we stayed with them for a few days we helped them put their second crop of hay up. This field was triggered from the Bridger Jim Ditch. They told us at the time that this ditch was in existence at the time they homesteaded the place in 1905. The Indians that were there had plots of ground that they were irrigating from this ditch.

I, Orson M. Allen declare this statement to be true in

2-2-70
By Orson M. Allen

Aside from what Jesusup Thomas has contributed to the livestock industry, he has also endeared himself in the hearts of all who have known him. Besides raising two families of his own (he remarried after his first wife died leaving him a young family to raise), he also gave several other boys and girls the comforts of home, afforded them with the necessary things of life, and helped them to receive educations.

It is said he has never turned down who was in need, and it is known that he has loaned money to total strangers when they stated their real needs. Because of his kindness and the helping hand he has always extended, hundreds of western people love and admire him.

Mr. Thomas is retired now, but the comforters of his little home in Tabiona are open wide to the passer-by, as was the latch string on the pioneer cabin and the flap of his hedge's tent.

Old Timer related that on another occasion an Indian known as Willy Jack visited him at camp. "He was invited to a halibut-fishery near what is now Tahiona by a half-breed Indian named Ab Murdock, that I finally got a pack, but it was more than a year, and then with the help of the Indian buck had taken it. I tried for some time to get it stolen to the Indian maiden was conclusive evidence that the fact that I had not mentioned the horse being worse. The Indian had not stolen my buck entirely and stated that the Indian had not stolen my horse. The Indian Camp save an Indian maiden. She spoke English Indian day I rode to his camp but no one was at the house. I indicated that the Indian had ridden away with the horse. I went to the spot where I had him tethered and found the prints of Indian moccasins which strongly impressed me, and when he left my best saddle horse disappeared. I went to the spot where I had him tethered and found the prints of Indian moccasins which strongly impressed me, and when he left my best saddle horse disappeared. I went to the spot where I had him tethered and found the prints of Indian moccasins which strongly impressed me, and when he left my best saddle horse disappeared.

When asked how he compared the forage on the ranges in the early days with which we find today he said, "Well, I will tell you like I have told others. How does it look before and after you cut a hay field? Many times I snagged my horses on the branches of trees that had fallen under the thick growth. Often I had to take my pack horses and make trials through the heavy vegetation in Curtin Creek before I could get my sheep to the. Easy Ed desimulation. There are a lot of washes and gullies there now that were not there when I first began to ride the trail. I all the time, I we'd all day at 400 sheep. The country and countrymen al looked just like a long string of white something passing before his eyes. He stepped back from the fence and said, "Sheep, sheep, the G--- D--- sheep. How many does your permit call for? I told him and he said, "Well, that's just what you have..." This old timer, who is not as old as many we have talked to, has lived a hard rugged life. The dangers he encountered on the range were added to by some Indians and Mexicans who were hard to get along with. He related

At the age of fourteen he was introduced to the work that he was to follow the rest of his life. He began to herd sheep. His first job, which was for George Colemann, took him into the area of Tooele. For two years he helped care for the Colemann flock. Summer and winter ranges were not far apart in those days, the summer range being in the vicinity of Grantsville, where the lush desert grasses and shrubs furnished an abundance of food. The wintering grounds were not far distant.

After two years on the ranges with the Colemann flock, young Jesusup joined John Austin and for twelve years stayed with the sheep the larger part of the year. The sheep were summered in the area that is known as Current Creek in Wasatch County and on the West Fork of the Duchesne River and trailed to the wintering ground near Duchesne. They were wintered in Western Utah. Sometimes they were wintered in the area east and south of Myton in Duchesne County. Thomas claims to have ridden all the ranges from the Green River west to Heber City and then into the desert ranges in the western part of the state.

Written by the Fish & Game in 1954

Jessup Thomas, the son of a pioneer family, was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, on October 6, 1878. Young Thomas was left an orphan at the age of seven, but coming from a large family of eleven, there were older brothers and sisters to take care of him. Even though the caring hands of older brothers and sisters kept the fires of family life burning, life was not easy. The economy of this family, like the communities of the western frontier of that time, was not stable. Settlers were just beginning to dig in by building homes, breaking up farm lands, constructing irrigation systems and establishing the livestock industry, which later was to become an important part in the life of Jessup Thomas.

Young Jessup was only exposed to an education, for it was a long time each day to the school house located four miles from his home. Early spring and late fall work took him out of school, as did very often the heavy snows of inclement winter days. So, for these reasons he received only an "incomplete" education.